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CUBA

I. Status and Strength of the Communist Party of Cuba

Since the advent of the Batista regime in 1952, government measures restricting Communist activity have included the suppression of Communist publications, rupture of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, outlawing of the Popular Socialist Party (PSP)(Communist), legislation against Communists in public service, and control of Communist travel and international communications. In May 1955 a Bureau for the Repression of Communist Activities (BRAC) was organized to implement anti-Communist legislation. The difficulties of the Communists in propagandizing and organizing politically has resulted in a loss of rank-and-file following. The Party remains very well organized, however, although forced to operate as a semi-covert organization. Alliances with non-Communist political groups and infiltration of social groups are major Communist objectives. Although the Communists have lost much of their former strength, they have maintained some influence in sugar, tobacco and maritime unions, in education, youth and women's organizations, and in the entertainment field, especially radio and broadcasting. The estimated membership of PSP is 12,000.

II. Party Units Responsible for Sabotage, Assassination, Kidnapping or Terrorist Missions

No pertinent information available; there is a possibility that the organization of terrorist action may be assigned to certain leaders of the local front organization, the Association for the Defense of Democratic Rights.

III. Sabotage Training Given Within Cuba

Negative.

IV. Sabotage Training Given Cuban Communists in Communist Bloc Countries

Negative.

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V. Sabotage, Assassination, Kidnapping, Terrorist Missions and Targets

a. U.S. and/or U.S. Allies Personnel, Installations

Negative.

b. Other Sabotage Targets

A lawyer for the PSP was arrested on 23 October 1954 on charges of possession of a home-made bomb and Communist propaganda and of terrorist activity to impede elections.

VI. Evidence of Direction and Support from the USSR, China or Other Communist Country

Negative

IX. Estimate of Threat from Local Communist Party Sabotage, Terrorism, etc.

PSP would appear to have no policy and little capacity for organizing sabotage and terrorist action on a sizeable scale. Individual PSP agitators conceivably could whip up demonstrations exploiting local grievances so the action would be carried to extremes. It is also possible that individual PSP members who have been infiltrated into opposition political parties could stir up violence while acting ostensibly as members of other political groups.

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